In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “Plus 50 Program Helps Spoon River Campus Cater to Students Over 50,” WGEM, June 1, 2012
- “Degrees That Are Great for Adult Students,” Yahoo News, May 24, 2012

AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program: Grant Funding Available

Does your community college have workforce training programs in education, social services, or health care? Then you’ll want to pay attention to this grant opportunity. The American Association of Community Colleges seeks proposals from community colleges committed to enhancing or expanding their existing workforce training programs for students 50 years of age and older. Participating colleges will ensure that plus 50 students obtain the degrees, certificates, and not-for-credit credentials sought by employers in the high-demand fields of education, social service, and health care. Approximately 100 colleges will be selected to be part of the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program. Selected colleges will receive grant funding through September 2014, support from the Plus 50 Champion Colleges, and access to a wealth of resources and materials developed through the Plus 50 Initiative. Responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) are due by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 22, 2012.

Free Webinar on Re-designing Math Courses for Adult Student Success

The Adult College Completion Network is hosting a webinar June 13, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (ET) examining how higher education institutions are
redesigning their basic math courses to improve student success and increase institutional efficiency. The webinar will present the Math Emporium model that was originally developed at Virginia Tech and is now being spread through the work of the National Center for Academic Transformation. The model has shown success at increasing student success rates while decreasing the overall cost to the institution. This webinar will be of particular interest to those working with populations of adults returning to postsecondary education that face challenges in completing the math coursework required for a degree. The webinar is free and open to all. Please register to attend.

**Free Webinar: “Supporting the Emerging Health Information Technology Workforce Through Partnerships”**

During this free June 18 webinar at 3:30 p.m. (ET), learn how workforce professionals have used sources of Health IT training, assessment vouchers, and competency models to support the transition from paper-based medical files to Electronic Health Records. Learn about the types of occupations associated with Health IT professions and the skills needed to perform successfully in these roles. Hear workforce leaders describe the benefits of collaboration between community colleges and Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers. You'll especially want to see the electronic health records competency model and resource guide. Registration is limited and offered on a first come, first served basis. You can sign up online to attend. If you do not have a Workforce3 One account, you must create and activate an account before you can register for the webinar.

**Reduce the Skills Gap: Submit Employer–Community College Partnership Examples by June 15**

American businesses are facing a growing skills gap challenge and companies with open jobs cannot find workers with the needed skills to fill them. An independent policy program of the Aspen Institute, Skills for America’s Future is working to reduce this skills gap by increasing and strengthening partnerships between employers and community colleges. These partnerships will help create a talent pipeline, ensuring that businesses remain competitive. The program has established a national network of more than 30 employer and 300 community college partners. You are invited to join Skills for America’s Future in identifying and cataloging high-impact employer–community college partnerships. Selected Models of Success will be featured alongside other exemplary employer–community college partnerships and promoted by Skills for America’s Future. Applications should follow a template and are due by June 15, 2012, to Rene Bryce-Laporte, program manager.

**Now Seeking Mentors: AARP Foundation Women’s Scholarship Program**

You can make a difference and change a life by helping a scholar for just one hour per week. This is a great opportunity for those who love helping others, have an interest in mentoring, and want to help vulnerable women reach financial security right from your own home. The AARP Foundation Women’s Scholarship Program is helping win back opportunity for low-income, plus 50 women by funding education, training, and skills upgrades
that can lead to better employment and increased financial security for women and their families. Currently the program is looking for open-minded, compassionate, and patient volunteers with organizational and support skills to help women with their educational career path. If you decide to join as a volunteer you'll be supported every step of the way with training and ongoing support. If you are interested in learning more about this important service please email scholarshipsforwomen@aarp.org.

SBA and AARP Launch Age 50+ Initiative to Start and Grow Businesses
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and AARP are launching a strategic alliance to provide counseling and training to entrepreneurs over the age of 50 who want to start or grow a small business. Through SBA’s online training courses and its nationwide network of business mentors and counselors, the two organizations expect to train 100,000 “encore entrepreneurs,” men and women over 50 who are starting or running a small business. SBA has set up a dedicated Web page. The site includes an online self-assessment tool, business planning information, professional counseling, financial services, and local resource information. SBA and AARP will jointly develop and host a customized online course, self-assessment, and webinar series for plus 50 entrepreneurs. SBA already offers a suite of online courses for people who want to start and grow their business.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Gallup Poll: Americans View College Degree Completion as an Essential Tool for Landing a Good Job and Finding Financial Security
This blog post by the Lumina Foundation highlights a 2011 Gallup poll’s findings about college completion. The study found that Americans overwhelmingly believe that college degrees are essential to addressing the employment and financial uncertainty facing our country. At a time when nearly 9 in 10 Americans say it is a bad time to get a quality job, about half agree that people who have a college degree have a good chance of finding a quality job. The blog post includes video footage discussing the poll results.

LEARNING

Tips for Program Planners: Program Adaptations for Plus-50 Encore Learners
As plus 50 adults turn to community colleges to train for careers that make a difference, colleges are retooling their programs to better support their efforts. This Civic Ventures Web page offers tips from GateWay Community College which trains caregivers, Portland Community College which trains students in gerontology using peer mentors, and the Virginia Community College System, which offers fast-track teaching certification.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Expanding the Employee Pipeline: Partnership Models for Workforce Development Programs
This Web page from Community Partnerships for Adult Learning discusses how employers can partner with adult literacy programs to improve their workforces. Adult literacy organizations can help businesses find skilled workers by offering pre-employment training programs that test and analyze the skills of applicants and train applicants lacking the skills necessary to be hired. They also can help strengthen the basic and English literacy skills of incumbent employees, as well as design curricula specific to the needs of the business. Lessons learned can help community colleges trying to establish relationships with employers.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Tapping the Volunteer Power of Baby Boomers”
In this About.com article, author Joanne Fritz discusses why nonprofits should focus volunteer recruitment efforts on the baby boomer generation. She also discusses research about baby boomers and volunteering. Approximately 36.9% of boomer women volunteer, compared to 29.4% of boomer men. Boomer males volunteer at a higher rate than all other male age groups. Baby boomers are a gregarious lot and less likely to volunteer out of a sense of duty or obligation, and more likely to volunteer as part of a social interaction. The biggest single inducement for boomers to volunteer is being asked by someone with whom he/she has an established relationship. Volunteering tends to peak at mid-life, around the current age of baby boomers, and then declines slightly.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree,granting institutions and more than 13 million students. AACC promotes community colleges through five strategic action areas: recognition and advocacy for community colleges; student access, learning, and success; community college leadership development; economic and workforce development; and global and intercultural education. Information about AACC and community colleges may be found at www.aacc.nche.edu.